150 EAST 73RD STREET

NEW YORK, NY 10021

July 24, 2017

The Honorable Judge Denise Cote
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, New York 10097

Dear Judge Cote,

Subject: Mr. Mahmoud Thiam

I am writing this letter as reference in support of my friend and former colleague, Mahmoud Thiam.

I am a banker with over 44 years of experience in both commercial and investment banking, between the Chase Manhattan Bank and Merrill Lynch & Co. I have dedicated my career primarily to international activities, and with the exception of a five-year assignment in London, England, my family and I have resided in New York City.

Mahmoud and I have known each other since 1995 when we were working at Merrill Lynch & Co. Mahmoud was in the International Private Client Division, based in New York, and I was Senior Vice President of the International Management Group, ML Capital Markets Group. Mahmoud did not directly report to me and, in fact, we were in a separate reporting line. I first came in contact with Mahmoud when he recommended a significant new business opportunity to the firm and through the normal process of internal debate and proper "due diligence", the proposed transaction came to my attention. It involved the central bank of an African Government and it required considerable review and scrutiny. Throughout the entire process, including a trip to the capital of the African country, Mahmoud was transparent, supportive and thoroughly engaged to see that the transaction was implemented properly, and importantly, conforming to the legal and operating principles of the firm. As the transaction pertained to a "non-investment grade" country, the process was heavily scrutinized by both internal and external counsel. The firm did not wish for any violations of law, including importantly, the FCPA. We became friends throughout this process, which took several months, and have remained friends ever since.

From that time on, we kept in touch and while we never again worked on any specific transaction, we would meet for lunch and shared our interests in African politics and economics. At one point, Mahmoud left the firm for a better offer and joined our competitor UBS in their international private client division. In spite of this move, we continued to be in contact although not as frequently as before.

In the winter of 2009 Mahmoud sought my counsel on accepting a position as minister of mines for the government of Guinea. I encouraged him to accept as it was, and still is my position, that when one is asked to work for one's country, it should be considered both as an honor and a duty. It was also my belief, that given the extraordinary experience and education that Mahmoud had achieved while in the United States, it was precisely because of these experiences that people like Mahmoud should be encouraged to "come home" and give back to their homeland.

I have known Mahmoud as a true professional with a strong moral compass and one who has always been committed to doing the "right thing". He has never given me nor anyone else that I know of, cause for criticism or alarm with regard to any of his actions. Therefore, it is with a deep sense of both shock and incredulity that I learned of the charges and ultimately the conviction of Mahmoud for the crimes you are about to sentence him for. I can only request that you consider the time already served, the devastating consequences of the effects of a long prison sentence upon his family and in particular, the effects of such an imprisonment upon his health. He has Type II diabetes and must be under both a strict diet and a proper, and regular, physical regime.

Mahmoud has been a devoted husband and father, doing all in his power to both provide for them as well as support them in all their activities. His daughters have been able to reach notable and consistent academic accomplishments and are responsible young women. This is in no small part due to the guidance and support from their father. He has always impressed me with his strong religious convictions and a great respect for those of different faiths.

In conclusion, I trust you will take this letter into consideration and I am available for any questions you may have in this regard.

Respectfully,

Brian Henderson

Honorable Judge Denise COTE
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10097
USA

Paris, July 25th 2017.

Dear Judge COTE,

In re: Mahmoud THIAM

I am Olivier CORCHIA, French citizen, born in 1974 and living today in Paris. I was trained as a lawyer. I hold a Master degree in Business Law and a Post-Graduate degree in International Business Law.

I met Mahmoud THIAM in Paris, in July 2008 thru a friend. We exchanged details but never followed up. If I followed in the press the events happening in Guinea since December 2008, I did not figure at that time that Mahmoud THIAM had been appointed Minister. In May 2009, I met him again. He had been sent to Paris by his President (Moussa Dadis CAMARA) to try to meet French authorities to explain the objectives and motivations of the new regime. As Minister THIAM had no clear contact, I contributed to organize a meeting for him at the French Presidential Palace with the Secretary General (Chief of Staff of the President). They established a relationship and stayed in contact during Minister THIAM's mandates (under Dadis and Konate). My opinion is that these meetings and regular reports made to French authorities contributed to a large extend to avoid riots and even massacres in Guinea.

During this period, where Mahmoud THIAM was Minister, our relationship was cordiale but with the appropriate distance due to his functions as Minister. I can attest that he had that same behavior with everyone I saw him with. I remember thinking at that time that it was not an easy task because of the lack of credibility and weakness of the regime he was working for. Despite this, big mining groups representatives were showing respect to him and nurtured a very good interlocution probably because they were aware of his background as an investment banker. It was really noticeable at that time that Mahmoud THIAM was valued as Minister by International Groups because they rarely had in this country such a level of interlocution.

Beside this, most probably because of the empathy he is able to demonstrate, Minister THIAM was respected by the Guineans who knew him. However, the country was controlled by the army and, as a civilian, Minister THIAM was not always considered as completely one of them and therefore, I had the feeling he was not always associated to all strategic decisions made by the President (CAMARA and KONATE). Moreover, Minister THIAM, contrary to the militaries, was very respectful of his hierarchy and colleagues Ministers and insisted with mining groups to follow a strict administrative process which was sometime upsetting for his military colleagues. Eventually, in my opinion, Mahmoud THIAM objectives was to put Republic of Guinea on the map of the big mining funds and groups for the first time of the History of the country which just went thru 50 years of dictatorship. Therefore, Minister THIAM was travelling a lot to praise the competitive advantages of Guinea. The consequence of this was that he was often out of the country, which caused him a lot of jealousy and critics already at that time. To balance his absences and his "aversion" for paperworks, Minister THIAM was implicating a lot his colleagues from the Ministry of Mines especially his chief of staff who became his successor Lamine FOFANA.

When Mahmoud THIAM resigned from his position, the nature of our relationship evolved toward less distance to eventually become friends. As a friend, I can write that Mahmoud is loyal, benevolent and shows empathy for everyone around him. I was in Togo when I learned that he was arrested and it has been a great shock to read the press and the facts because I had been able at many occasions to attest of his honesty and independence toward the potential influence of money. I often had personal conversations with Mahmoud about money, power, origins. I would like to provide you here with an important information to understand fully his personality. Mahmoud's late Father was before the independence a respected banker in Guinea. He has been illegally arrested, jailed for months before being assassinated together with the rest of the elite of the country at that time by Sekou TOURE. I noticed that Mahmoud, being a descendant of a Fulani Royal line, always tried hard to behave in accordance with his rank: he is always available for others (sometimes too much to an extend he can endanger his own situation), he tries not to judge people, he never compromises with situations or people that could alter his name or reputation.

Therefore, I keep wondering what was his intellectual process when he accepted that loan. I came to the conclusion I would like to share with you here. I think, he was so convinced of fulfilling his mission of Minister to the best interests of his country and so impregnated of the absence of influence that money or power has on him that, he thoughts accepting that loan, which probably helped him solve certain situations, was not constituting a fault.

His conviction is an even bigger shock for me. I regularly meet Civil servants, Ministers, Prime Ministers or Head of States in various countries. I would, with objectivity and honesty, say that Minister THIAM was among the most brilliant and impressive Ministers I met. He was so dedicated to his mission that he put all his energy and sometime own money (I know he paid for medical treatments of his collaborators and colleagues and also paid for flights and hotels) to fulfil it.

As a Father, I can attest of his profound love and care for his daughters of whom he is so proud. Among Mahmoud's main drive as far as money is concerned is to provide the best education for his daughters. Probably because his childhood was tougher.

As a conclusion, I would say that I felt the need to write that letter to you, Judge COTE, in order to try providing you with another perspective on Mahmoud THIAM whom I still consider as an honest, loyal, brilliant and benevolent man and friend. I hope this letter will be useful to you and, if you allow me, I praise for you indulgence. My certitude is that Mahmoud THIAM was much more in a dynamic of negligence and not at all in a criminal scheme.

With all my respect.

Olivier CORCHIA

KARALCO
RESOURCES LTD.

Honorable Judge Denise Cote
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10097
USA

London, 28th July, 2017.

Dear Judge Cote,

Re: Mahmoud Thiam

My name is Karim Karjian and I am a British citizen born in 1945 and am currently living in London. I have a degree in Economics. I am CEO of Karalco Resources Ltd, a company with offices in London and Paris, which is mainly involved in the development of projects in the field of natural resources, energy and telecommunications in West Africa. I was also Chairman of Guinea Alumina Corporation (GAC) who were developing the Bauxite & Alumina Integrated Refinery in Sangaredi, Guinea.

It was during my time as Chairman of GAC that I first met Mahmoud Thiam. He was then Minister of Mines in Guinea and as such was very supportive of our project which, like ourselves, he saw as being only good for Guinea. Our relationship was always cordiale but due to his position we always maintained an appropriate distance.

It was not until after his resignation that our relationship developed into friendship. I have always found Mahmoud to be loyal and benevolent to all those around him and a loving family man. I was greatly shocked when I heard that he has been arrested and the facts surrounding his arrest because in all my dealings with him, I had always found him to be honest and uninfluenced by money or power. It is because of my knowledge of his character that I believe that he considered that what he did was in the best interest of his country and not for personal gain.

In conclusion, through my knowledge of Mahmoud Thiam as an honest, loyal, brilliant family man and friend, I believe that he had no criminal intent in his actions.

Thank you, Judge Cote, for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours sincerely,

Karim L Karjian
CEO of Karalco Resources Ltd

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SESAM

Honorable Juge Denise Cote
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10007

Kigali, July 26, 2017

RE: Request for Leniency

Dear Juge Cote:

My name is Jean Pierre Sempabwa Gatarayiha. I am Rwandan. I graduated as an architect from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa where I was awarded the "Corobrick Awark" Prize in 2000 for excellence. I founded SESAM Architects in Johannesburg in 2004 to work on projects throughout the entire African continent. In 2013, I opened a branch in Kigali, Rwanda, my country of origin. Over the last thirteen years, I had the opportunity to work on magnificent projects on the African continent, but I would never have had these opportunities if I had not crossed paths with Mahmoud Thiam.

I met Mahmoud in 2001 through friends we had in common. I was a fresh graduate and was working for a very large firm in Johannesburg. Mahmoud, with his natural generosity and kindness, was easy to connect with and our friendship grew closer over time. Today, I know all his close family, including his mother.

Mahmoud convinced me to start my own firm. He not only encouraged and advised me, but he gave me the means to do so by sending me architectural projects and introducing me to potential clients. This support did not stop with the beginning of my career. It continues until today. As much as I believe that I have a special relationship with Mahmoud, I know I am not alone as many people benefited from Mahmoud's generosity and can attest to that.

I am deeply grateful to Mahmoud for his advice and for the time he spent with me. It is well known that one could, without a doubt, call him at any time

SESAM

and he would take the time to listen or call back as soon as he could. Mahmoud took a very long flight to attend the funerals of a friend's father. This is a concept of friendship that has become rare nowadays, but Mahmoud still embodies it. His ability to connect with other human beings is out of this world. He has forged very strong bonds with those he calls friends.

When I learnt of his arrest, I was shocked, devastated and saddened. Thus it is with a very heavy heart that I write this letter to ask you to find in your heart forgiveness for my brother Mahmoud. I think of his family who endured horrific times during the trial. I think of his wife, daughters and his mother. I also think of all his friends, many of whom he considers family. We will continue to pray for him and his large family so that God keeps him in good physical and mental health, despite the situation he finds himself in.
Honorable Juge Cote, I implore your leniency for this good man.

Jean Pierre Sempabwa Gatarayiha

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July 26, 2017

Honorable Judge Denise Cote
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street
New York, NY 10097

RE: Mahmoud Thiam

Dear Honorable Judge Cote,

My name is Nurunisha Dunston and I served as Mahmoud Thiam's executive assistant for approximately six years. I have known Mahmoud since 1999 when I was expecting my son Jeremy, who will be attending The Pennsylvania State University this fall. We had kept in touch ever since, and in 2011 he offered me the opportunity to work directly for him at Thiam & Co. Working for Mahmoud at his firm was truly an honor I will always be grateful for, specifically the several skills, experiences, and connections I have acquired and established.

I understand that Mahmoud Thiam was accused and convicted of money laundering. While this came as a shocker, I continued to remember Mahmoud as a humble man of faith, with a very big heart. I witnessed, daily, Mahmoud's actions of putting the needs of others before his own, a very unselfish man. His family is entirely dependent of him and his time away from them has put a burden on their day to day lives. The girls often came to visit their father at the office where they would sit in the conference room and eat lunch, often their favorite treats. Being a husband and a dad are Mahmoud's biggest joy and accomplishments.

Mahmoud Thiam is admired by not only his family at Thiam & Co., but his family at home; his wife, three daughters, and other extended family. The past seven months consisting of the arrest, the multitude of bail hearings, the trial, and the conviction have taken quite a toll- financially and mentally- on both Mahmoud and his constituents. In light of Mahmoud's conviction, I ask that you keep in mind the impact of his obligations to his family.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Nurunisha Dunston

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Kinshasa, 24 July 2017

Attention to Honorable Judge Denise Cote
United States District of New York
500 Pearl Street New York, NY 10007

Dear Honorable Judge Cote,

Object: Mahmoud Thiam

Dear Honorable Judge Cote, I have the pleasure to introduce myself to you, I am Paul Kasseyet of Congolese Nationality, I am the Chairman of Pygma Group that is a Pan African Investment company with offices in South Africa, Republic Democratic of Congo and Rwanda. I have been raised and educated in Belgium as Commercial engineer from University of Mons and also hold a Master in Finance from University of Quebecq in Canada.

I have known Mahmoud Thiam for more than 10 years now, first as my banker at UBS where he advises me on securing some savings in financial market. We than became friends since he was touring Africa extensively for his job with UBS, he will always contact his clients across the continent, even just to say Hello and inquire for what was positively happening on the continent.

I once visited New York during holidays period and he graciously invited me to spend few days with his family in their holiday retreat. I spend memorable moments with Fatim, the 2 little girls at the time and Mahmoud. I guess that were friendship turned into family relation.

It came to me as a choc and frightening news to read in the news that the friend that I always admire for his cautiousness was involved into some disputable activities related to mining deals. I didn't have any details on the file but it just not something that I would have imagine for many reasons;

- Mahmoud as a banker always use to give me advise on corporate compliance.
- When Mahmoud became minister in Guinea, he was so determined to use his international exposure to benefit his country with far deals. Fighting with multinational to review disputable deals signed under previous regime.
- Least and not last, Mahmoud always took time to build long term wealth rather than short term win.

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I once asked Mahmoud why he was so attached to the United states and why he didn't want to go leave permanently in Africa where he had so much opportunities, contacts and friends... his response actually confused me, he says

that the bigger investment he would have done in his life it's his daughter education and he believe that the US education system was the only one able to secure his investment. That tells you what kind of human being Mahmoud is...

If I have taken a few minutes to address you this letter Honorable Judge Cote, it is just to say that people make sometimes mistakes, directly, indirectly, for good or bad reasons, sometimes they don't even know that they are doing mistakes or they just don't do it and happens to be at the wrong place at the wrong time... But what people are, don't change. Mahmoud is what he is, an individual that have live the worst experience in life losing a father in the most horrible way and still manage to became a successful person with an impressive ability to create friends and cultivate relationship but even more he became himself that Father that love his wife and his daughter and gave them that love that he missed all his life.

I know justice repair prejudice but justice is also gathering for community and people future, this time again I hope any decision made will be looking at Mahmoud family future as a treasure to protect.

Kind regards,

PAUL KASSEYET

24/07
2017